

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A printing unit device in an offset machine comprising means for lacquer application and means for water application, the lacquer application means and the water application means are comprised of a unit comprising a doctor blade chamber device and at least a roller for transferring lacquer or water from the doctor blade chamber device to the plate cylinder of the printing unit.

13. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 12, wherein the lacquer and water application means are based on the use of one and the same doctor blade chamber device.

14. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 13, wherein the lacquer application means comprises only one transfer roller in the form of a screen roller transferring lacquer directly from the doctor blade chamber device to the plate cylinder.

15. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 13, wherein the water application means comprises transfer rollers in the form of a screen roller and a rubber roller for transferring water from the doctor blade chamber device to the plate cylinder.

16. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 12, wherein the doctor blade chamber device/transfer roller unit is displaceable mounted relative to the plate cylinder between an engagement position and in idling position.

17. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 12, wherein the unit is provided with coupling means adapted to be releasably connected to coupling means in the offset machine, preferably coupling means for a cleaning unit known per se for a blanket cylinder which functions as the plate cylinder.

18. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 12, wherein the transfer roller is driven by its own motor, preferably via a motor controlled by tacho signal from the main machine.

19. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 12, wherein the unit comprising the doctor blade chamber device and at least one roller is replaceably mounted in the offset machine with the existing dampening unit of the offset machine.

20. (Withdrawn) A printing unit according to claim 12, wherein the transfer roller which is in contact with the plate cylinder of the printing unit is mounted in the bearing of the offset machine for a conventional transfer cylinder in a dampening unit, and wherein the plate cylinder simultaneously is in contact with two units comprising a doctor blade chamber device and transfer rollers for application of lacquer and water, respectively, to the plate cylinder.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a printing unit in an offset machine, which includes a plate cylinder and an inking unit which is movable to engage and disengage said plate cylinder, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a doctor blade chamber device which operates as both a lacquer applying unit and a dampening unit for alternately applying lacquer and alternately applying water;

disengaging the inking unit from contact with said plate cylinder when said doctor blade chamber device is applying lacquer;

engaging the inking unit to be in contact with said plate cylinder when said doctor blade chamber device is applying water; and

wherein lacquer is applied exclusively to the plate cylinder by direct contact of a roller with said plate cylinder, said roller adapted to receive the lacquer from the doctor blade chamber device.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a printing unit in an offset machine which includes a plate cylinder and an inking unit which is movable to engage and disengage said plate cylinder, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first doctor blade chamber device which operates as a lacquer applying unit for applying lacquer;

providing a second doctor blade chamber device which operates as a dampening unit for applying water;

disengaging the inking unit from contact with said plate cylinder when said first doctor blade chamber device is applying lacquer;

engaging the inking unit to be in contact with said plate cylinder when said second doctor blade chamber device is applying water; and

applying lacquer exclusively to the plate cylinder by direct contact of a roller with said plate cylinder, said roller adapted to receive the lacquer from the doctor blade chamber device.